

PRESS RELEASE

Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, Inc.

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For Immediate Release

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Concerned Black Women Co-Hosts Calvert Business Summit

Organization Teams with GOBA and Calvert County Department of Economic Development to Offer Workshop in Prince Frederick

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – September 12, 2005 – It takes a lot of knowledge, support and assistance to start and manage a successful business. No one understands this more than Doris J. Cammack Spencer, owner of Cammack Settlements and current president of the Concerned Black Women for Calvert County (CBW).

It was Spencer's experience with one strong issue facing the African American community - economic development and that led her along with Annette Funn and other Calvert County women to found CBW in June of 2004. "There really is a lot of free and valuable help and information out there for the small business owner," she said. "The problem is that most people just don't know about all the resources that are available on the local, State and Federal level."

While the nonprofit CBW is still in its first year of existence, the group is moving forward with several projects designed to give women and minority business owners in Calvert County the leg-up they need to get started and succeed.

On September 23, the group will host the first annual Calvert County Small Business Summit, "*Building Your Business – Building Your Dream*," at the College of Southern Maryland's new Prince Frederick campus from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be co-hosted by the Governor's Office of Business Advocacy and the Calvert County Department of Economic Development. Major sponsors include Barbara Parran, of ITECH of Southern Maryland, and Lisa Height-Gross of Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.

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Attendees of this first annual summit will accomplish the following:

- Speak directly with bankers and small business lenders to learn about loans, micro services and special banking programs and dispel the myths of loan applications and lending practices;
- Find out about State certifications and procurement programs;
- Understand the implications of business taxes and licensing;
- Explore the requirements of Supplier diversity programs with major private sector companies;
- Learn about free business services that are available, including confidential consultations on management, marketing and strategic planning;
- Meet other entrepreneurs, business owners and decision makers who are interested in partnership opportunities.

The cost for the half-day Summit is only \$15.00 and includes a continental breakfast plus a special lunch featuring a keynote address by Barbara Robinson of STAR Associates, Inc. As an author, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, consultant, educator and radio talk-show host, Ms. Robinson has done it all. Her message of perseverance and determination is delivered in a unique, down-to-earth style that leaves her audiences energized and inspired.

This month, CBW will also unveil their Minority Business Directory, with listings, advertisements and contact information for approximately 100 minority- and women-owned businesses. Dawn Tucker is chair of the minority business committee and President of Lord and Tucker Management Consultants, LLC. She has been extremely encouraged by the response to the publication. "It is my hope that this Directory becomes a valuable tool and historical record for minority business owners and all of the Calvert County community. It has been extremely rewarding to work on this project and I can't wait to begin distributing the publication at the Small Business Summit."

For more information on the Calvert County Small Business Summit or to register by September 19, contact Dawn L. Tucker at (866) 517-0477 or send an e-mail to calvertcbw@aol.com.

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